



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/072,823  
Applicants : Chen et al.  
Filed : February 8, 2002  
TC/A.U. : 1654  
Examiner : Meller

Attorney Docket No. : NOV-0001  
Customer No. : 23413

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is being co-filed with a Request for Continued Examination and an Information Disclosure Statement in the subject case. Amendments and remarks herein are in response to the Office Action dated August 26, 2003. The amendment is submitted in accordance with the Revised Amendment Format according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, effective July 30, 2003.

Prior to acting on the instant application, please enter the following amendments.

### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Claims 1-48 are pending in the present application. Claims 10, 17, 24, 25, 30, 31, and 36-48 have been canceled without prejudice, leaving Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-23, 26-29, and 32-35 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

[There are no amendments to the specification.]